



Agricultural Scholars Program

What is Farm Foundation?

Farm Foundation is an accelerator of practical solutions for agriculture. Our mission is to build trust and understanding at the intersections of agriculture and society. We accomplish this by leveraging non-partisan objective dialogue, information and training, catalyzing solutions and creating multi-stakeholder collaboration. Our vision is to build a future for farmers, our communities and our world.

Since 1933, we have connected leaders across agricultural sectors—farming, business, academia, organizations and government.

What is ERS?

The mission of USDA's Economic Research Service is to anticipate trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America and to conduct high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making.

ERS shapes its research program and products to serve those who routinely make or influence public policy and program decisions. Key clientele include White House and USDA policy officials; the U.S. Congress; program administrators/managers; other Federal agencies; State and local government officials; and organizations, including farm and industry groups. ERS research provides context for and informs the decisions that affect the agricultural sector, which in turn benefits everyone with efficient stewardship of our agricultural resources and the economic prosperity of the sector.

What is the Farm Foundation Agricultural Scholars Program?

This program seeks to actively engage graduate student scholars working in agricultural economics or related agricultural policy work with a year-long series of learning experiences, focused on gaining a deeper understanding of production agriculture, agribusiness, and government, in hopes of inspiring and training the next generation of agricultural economists interested agricultural policy, commodity market analysis, agricultural finance, and other applied fields of economics.

What will the Ag Scholars do?

Over the course of one year, the Ag Scholars will have the opportunity to:

- **Attend two Farm Foundation Round Table meetings** (in January 2021 and June 2021),
- **Develop working relationships with key ERS senior analysts** to identify research topics, provide additional career mentoring, and possibly serve on graduate committees;
- **Present research and receive feedback from ERS economists** during a capstone research presentation event;
- Meet with and **learn from senior executives with agribusinesses** and in local trade associations;
- Be assigned one **ERS staff member as a mentor** for the year and with an opportunity to shadow the ERS mentor for one day, if possible;
- **Participate in Farm Foundation Forums** and other **events** throughout the year;
- **Participate in the USDA Ag Outlook Forum**;
- **Attend the AAEE Annual Meeting** in Austin, TX, with special opportunities to connect and network with agricultural economists ;
- Potentially travel to **Kansas City, MO and Washington, DC** to tour local agriculture and agribusinesses, and gain on-the-farm and hands-on experience in the food and agricultural sector, as

well as meet with and learn from senior executives in USDA, on Capitol Hill, with agribusinesses, and in commodity trade associations.

What does the award cover?

The award covers all meeting registration costs, travel, hotel accommodations, and materials.

If a selected student from a nominating university is unable to fully participate in the program for any reason, another student will be selected to take their place. Attendance and participation in all the Scholar events enhance the value of the programming for everyone.

Who can nominate a student?

Students must be nominated by their college dean or department head. To be eligible for this program, students must be U.S. citizens enrolled in a graduate degree program related to applied sciences, such as agricultural economics, at an accredited land grant college or university.

What is the student required to do?

Ag Scholars will be required to attend all of the gatherings outlined here, regularly check in with their mentor, and present project capstone research at the end of the program year. At times they may also be called up to comment, present, or offer insights into on subject matter related to their research.

What are the dates and locations of the meetings and gatherings with Scholars will attend?

- January 13-15, 2021 – Farm Foundation Round Table meeting (virtual)
- February 18-19, 2021 – 2021 USDA Ag Outlook Forum (TBD)
- June 15-18, 2021 – Farm Foundation Round Table meeting (Denver, CO or virtual)
- August 1-3, 2021 – Attend AAEA Annual Meeting (Austin, TX)
- Late Summer/Fall, 2021 – Trips to Kansas City and/or Washington, DC
- Farm Foundation Forums are typically held in February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November

Dates and locations are subject to change at any time.

What is the nomination timeline?

To nominate a student, [please submit an application form](#) by December 4, 2020. Accepted nominees will be notified by December 18, 2020.

Who can I contact with questions?

If you have questions at any time through the Scholars program year, please reach out to Martha King, Farm Foundation's Vice President of Programs and Projects, at (331) 871-3377 or martha@farmfoundation.org.

Our Policy

It is the policy of Farm Foundation to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual identity, age, or disability.